

SENATE BILL 143

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2003 Regular Session
3lr0767
CF 3lr0766

By: **Chairman, Judicial Proceedings Committee (Maryland Judicial Conference)**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2003

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Marriage Ceremonies - Authorized Officials - Fees**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of "judge" in a provision that authorizes a
4 judge to perform a marriage ceremony; establishing a certain fee for a marriage
5 ceremony performed by a judge; establishing that a judge's, clerk's, or deputy
6 clerk's fee for performing a marriage ceremony is nonrefundable and payable in
7 advance; and generally relating to marriage ceremonies.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article - Family Law
10 Section 2-406(a) and 2-410(a)(1), (2)(i), and (6)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
14 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article - Family Law**

16 2-406.

17 (a) (1) In this subsection, "judge" means a [sitting or retired judge of the
18 District Court, a circuit court, the Court of Special Appeals, the Court of Appeals, the
19 United States District Court for the District of Maryland, or the United States Court
20 of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, or a] sitting or retired judge of [another] A state or
21 federal court [that has substantially equivalent jurisdiction], AS DEFINED BY THE
22 COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND.

23 (2) A marriage ceremony may be performed in this State by:

24 (i) any official of a religious order or body authorized by the rules
25 and customs of that order or body to perform a marriage ceremony;

26 (ii) any clerk;

1 (iii) any deputy clerk designated by the county administrative judge
2 of the circuit court for the county; or

3 (iv) a judge.

4 2-410.

5 (a) (1) Except as provided in this subsection, a JUDGE, [clerk] CLERK, or
6 deputy clerk may not receive any fee, remuneration, or gift for performing a marriage
7 ceremony.

8 (2) (i) [Except as provided in paragraph (6) of this subsection, the
9 clerk's] A JUDGE'S, CLERK'S, or deputy clerk's fee for performing a marriage ceremony
10 is [\$25] A NONREFUNDABLE FEE, PAYABLE TO THE CLERK BEFORE A MARRIAGE
11 LICENSE IS ISSUED, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30 IN CECIL COUNTY AND \$25 IN ANY
12 OTHER COUNTY.

13 (6) In Cecil County:

14 (i) [the clerk's or deputy clerk's fee for performing a marriage
15 ceremony is \$30;

16 (ii)] of the funds remaining after the payment into the general fund
17 of the County under paragraph (2)(i) of this subsection, the clerk shall pay:

18 1. \$5 of each fee to the Cecil Historical Trust, Incorporated;

19 and

20 2. \$5 of each fee to the Historical Society of Cecil County;

21 [(iii)] (II) the Historical Society of Cecil County shall report
22 annually to the Cecil County Commissioners on the use of the funds received under
23 this section;

24 [(iv)] (III) the Cecil Historical Trust, Incorporated shall report
25 annually to the Cecil County Commissioners and the Maryland Historical Trust on
26 the use of all funds received under this section, including a detailed record of the
27 expenditures and receipts of all funds transferred from the Cecil County Committee
28 of the Maryland Historical Trust; and

29 [(v)] (IV) the Cecil County Commissioners or the Maryland
30 Historical Trust may request at any time an audit of the financial records of the Cecil
31 Historical Trust, Incorporated.

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
33 June 1, 2003.